

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

September 7, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT 1st floor auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 1:45 pm by Chairman George Phillips.

Commission Members Present:

MS Department of Public Safety	George Phillips
MS Department of Corrections	Chris Epps
MS Highway Safety Patrol	Michael Berthay
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Litchlitter
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
MS Department of Health	Brian Amy
MS National Guard	Gary Ladd
MS Sheriffs Association	James Newman
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Clovis Reed
MS Emergency Management Agency	Tom McAllister

Advisory Members Present:

Representative Tyrone Ellis	Senator Tom King
Representative Johnny Stringer	Senator Jack Gordon

Chairman George Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:45 pm. Chairman Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Chris Epps made the motion, and it was seconded by Gary Ladd. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Rules Committee. There were two requests for approval. Bud Douglas from the Department of Human Services (DHS) presented a request for a one-year contract with Verizon Wireless in the amount of \$452,000, which would purchase service for 450 cell phones with GPS capability. This purchase would allow the agency to better monitor its employees, as well as provide the employees with a tool to help them perform their duties more efficiently and safely. Chris Epps asked if Verizon is the only vendor with this type of service. Mr. Douglas responded that it is at this time. Mr. Epps questioned whether or not the product had been tested. Mr. Douglas stated that they would continue to test it, and they must prove that it will work throughout the state. James Newman asked if all case workers have cell phones at this time. Mr. Douglas stated that very few of them have cell phones. Representative Tyrone Ellis questioned where the 200 push-to-talk cell phones given to DHS after Katrina were at this time. Mr. Douglas stated that they were not being utilized at this time. There was further discussion of the push-to-talk cell phones. David Litchlitter stated that DHS would need to show in their files where they had talked with other vendors about providing this type of service. Representative Ellis discussed the spending efficiency of DHS and suggested that a performance assessment may be beneficial. Chairman Phillips stated to Mr. Douglas that if Verizon is not awarded the state contract for cellular service, DHS will be required to change vendors in the future. Mr. Douglas stated that he understood that. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request. It was seconded by Tom McAllister, and it was unanimously approved.

The second request was from Jackson County. The request was for an expansion of the last request approved for Jackson County. Mr. Yelverton stated that his subcommittee had no recommendation. George Sholl from Jackson County presented the request. The Board of Supervisors in Jackson County wants to provide coverage in both the Northeast and Northwest corners of the county at the same time. Previously, a request to cover only the Northeast corner had been approved. The cost to build out both corners would be \$3.825 million. There was a discussion of sites and coverage in the county. Willie Huff stated that we are very close to a state system that could be better than the one they will build, and if we grant this request, we could be duplicating towers. Clovis Reed pointed out that the last request was granted in November of 2005, and at this point Jackson County has yet to start the build out. Gary Ladd made a motion to table this addition to the first request, and Mr. Reed seconded that motion. The motion was approved with Joel Yelverton opposed.

Clovis Reed reported for the Cellular RFP Committee. The Cellular RFP has been advertised, and a vendor conference had been held. ITS is addressing vendor questions at this time. Proposals will be accepted on October 17th. Chairman Phillips named an evaluation team consisting of the following members: Clovis Reed as chairman, Nick Wilson, Jay Ledbetter, Kevin Gray of Department of Health, and Jimmy McIntire of DEC.

Chris Epps reported for the RFP Committee. David Litchlitter stated that he believed the last clarification has been sent to the vendors. Vendors have been notified of the September 21st vendor presentations, which will only be open to Commission members and Advisory members.

Willie Huff reported for the Interoperability Committee. Mr. Huff stated that the tests of the VHF channels on the coast were a success.

Gary Ladd reported for the Governance Committee. They met with Florida and Michigan to get documents on their governance structures. Mr. Ladd requested that the committee be expanded with three additional members. Chairman Phillips asked that Mr. Ladd provide him with a proposal for the committee structure.

Chairman Phillips asked if there was any old or new business to be discussed.

David Litchlitter stated that ITS will make a request for the \$17 million through a grant proposal. ITS will administer the fund, which will require both his and Chairman Phillips' signature for expenditures.

The next meeting will be October 5, 2006, in the MDOT Auditorium at 1:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 pm.